



**Windows To The World:**  
**The Window Users Column**

**By: David Stellmack**

Hello! Welcome to column number 2. This month we will look at a few of the newer software applications that are now running under Windows. I have written several letter to several software companies who currently have new application software that is running under Windows and they have been able to provide me with review copies of some of the software they hgave available for Windows Users. This month we will look at Xerox Presents 1.0 from Xerox, and Adobe Illustrator from Adobe Systems. Since, I always like to save the best for last let's start out with the Adobe Illustrator.

Adobe Illustrator

By: Adobe Systems Inc.

1585 Charleston Road

Mountain View, CA 94039-7900

(415)962-2000

List Price: \$695.00

Requires: MS-DOS 3.1 or Higher, Windows 2.03 or Higher, 640K Ram + 256K Expanded Memory, 80286 or Faster Machine, EGA, VGA, or Hercules display, and a mouse or pointing device.

Copy Protection: None

Technical Support: Unlimited / Monday thru Friday 8-4

Additional Support: Adobe Forum on CompuServe & Newsletter

Updates: Free updates for the first 90 days

Rating: \*\* 1/2

I was very excited to look at this program, but before I dug right in, I had to take the time to read the manual and read it fully. Now, this is not a new practice for me, but this took a little time and I would differently recommend it if you buy this program. Adobe first introduce the Illustrator for the Mac in 1987. Since then it has become one of the most popular programs for Mac users, especially for desktop publishers. However, I don't think Adobe is going to enjoy as mush success with the PC version of the Illustrator. The Illustrator does make computer illustration on your PC a reality, but the program is SO slow that I don't think that PC users will be willing to wait. The Micrografx Designer dominates micro computer illustration on the PC.

The Illustrator's strength lies in the fact that the program has the ability to control Bezier curves. You have to use the pen tool to draw connected lines and curves that form the outline of an image and then grab the image at various spots to adjust the final shape. Now, getting used to this took me sometime and I think it will for anyone. However, the end result produce can be quite effective. The Illustrator treats all elements like objects, so you can scale, skew, stack, and rotate till your hearts content. Other features and special effects include: perspective draw, airbrush, and various typography. Anyone who dabbles in detailed drawings will like the tracing functions. The Illustrator can import clip art, scanned images, and various formats of pictures from graphics packages. All can be traced if you desire. The tracing can then be changed in a variety of different ways. One of the program's more interesting features in the ability to import AutoCad \*.DFX files and once imported they are turned into Illustrator objects. Also, once imported these can be printed on any PostScript device. Anything you create with the Illustrator can be saved as an EPS file which can be imported by Page Maker or Ventura. Although the Illustrator can not generate four color separations, you can control both color and gray scale. The Illustrator was so slow that on a 12MHZ AT you can find your self waiting a couple of minutes to preview an image. Cutting and pasting is also very slow. I found the program almost unbearable until I re-installed the program on a 386 machine running Windows 386. The program also eats memory like crazy and you are going to need at least 2MB or better to do anything real serious with it. I found the user interface and the manual only to be average. This program has much potential, but many of the better features in the latest Mac version were left out of this PC release. I would be looking for an upgrade soon. Although, this is a great program on the Mac, the PC version just is not up to snuff. I would recommend you take a look at the Designer from Micrografx.

Xerox Presents 1.0

By: Xerox Software Marketing

P.O. Box 660512

Dallas, Tx 75266-0512

(800)822-8221

List Price: \$495.00

Requires: 640K RAM (1MB strongly urged!), hard disk, 80286 (16MHz or better 80386 strongly urged!!), MS-DOS 3.1 or higher, VGA, EGA, or Hercules Graphics Card (color recommend).

Copy Protection: None

Technical Support: Free for the first 60 days. Annual extended support \$100.00.

Additional Support: 1 Day training workshops.

Updates: No information available.

Rating: \*\*\*\* (On a 386 Based System)

Now, I don't give regular presentations, but if I ever did this would be the program to do it with. If you have to prepare slides or transparencies as a part of your job this might be a good investment if you happen to own a 386 based system. This program was VERY easy to use and understand and I was able to get it up and running and create a presentation without looking at the docs. One of the nicest features of this program is the ability to produce both speaker notes and handouts while creating your presentation. Presents offers a variety of effects including, wipes, fades, and many others. These are useful if your presentation is going to be shown on your PC as your projector.

Setting up a presentation is as simple as loading one of the Page Maker like style sheets and replace the included text and create your graphics with Present's own tools or import them from another program. Importing anything is as simple as dumping the stuff to the clipboard, weather it is text or graphics. Presents supports 256 colors and patterns to use in your displays. Presents is able to import from a variety of formats including: ASCII, DIF, WKS, CGM, PCX, STYLK, TIF, and Windows metafile, EPS, and Windows Paint. Now, as for exporting it is only able to export via the Windows clipboard, which is not really that bad, but it can be a pain at times. This program is also SLOW on anything less than a 386 at 16MHz. This is due part in fact to the that Presents has to redraw the screen whenever a minor change occurs. Printing anything will cause you to leave the room to get a cup of coffee or a coke. Be prepared to have a bit of hard disk space available, because this programs eats up space like it is going out of style. If I ever need to create a professional presentation, I'll know just where to go.

Well, I hope you enjoyed this edition of Windows To The World and if you have any questions about Windows or you need help with a Windows application please feel free to write me at the address below.

Windows To The World  
c/o Word Processing People  
3857 North High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43214

Coming to Windows To The World Next Month:

An in depth look at the first word processor for Windows:

Ami - Version 1.0 By Smana